



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

6 OCTOBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Manhattan Beach – Teen Students Arrested in ‘Credible Threat’ at Mira Costa High School

(U) Two 17-year-old boys suspected of posing a “credible threat” to classmates at Mira Costa High School have been arrested following searches of their Manhattan Beach homes that turned up evidence that “a dangerous incident” could have occurred, police announced yesterday. A Manhattan Beach PD spokesman said that investigators located substantial evidence—however no weapons—at one of the homes which led them to believe that a dangerous incident has been averted due to the arrest of these suspects. No further details on the arrest were released.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Daily Breeze](#)

(U) Milpitas – Cheap and Stealthy Malware Advertised as Internet Monitoring Tool

(U) Hackers have launched a string of campaigns against defense, aerospace, and manufacturing contractors in the US in an effort to install data-stealing malware called "FormBook". Several such campaigns have been uncovered by researchers at Milpitas-based FireEye, which found that while each campaign uses email as the primary attack vector, the malicious attachment can come in the form of PDFs, Office Documents, ZIP, RAR, ACE, or ICO attachments, as well as shortened URLs. It is also capable of following remote commands, downloading and executing additional files, and rebooting or shutting down systems.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [ZDNet](#)

(U) Sacramento – Police Arrest 18 People during Marijuana Raids

(U) Police arrested 18 people and raided a dozen sites yesterday that were connected to marijuana operations in Sacramento and Yuba Counties. The Yuba County Sheriff’s Office stated yesterday that one of the suspects is the leader of a Rastafarian church where deputies fatally shot an armed farm worker said to be threatening church members in August. The raids were carried out by officers from nine state and county law enforcement agencies, resulting in the seizure of cash, 1,500 marijuana plants, five pounds of processed marijuana, and eight guns.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Probing Collision between Civilian Drone, Army Helicopter

(U) Washington – The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating a 21 September collision between a civilian hobbyist drone and a US Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter near Staten Island, New York, as concerns mount over the rising number of unmanned aircraft in US airspace. The helicopter landed safely, but its main rotor blade, window frame, and transmission deck were damaged. The US Government has banned drone flights over military facilities, US landmarks, and some critical infrastructure—like the Folsom and Shasta Dams in California.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Russian Hackers Stole US Cyber Secrets from NSA

(U) Washington – Russian government-backed hackers stole highly classified US cyber secrets in 2015 from the NSA after a contractor put information on his home computer, according to news media reports released yesterday. The theft included information on penetrating foreign computer networks and protecting against cyberattacks, and—if confirmed—is likely to be viewed as one of the most significant security breaches to date. The NSA has declined to respond, citing it does not comment on such issues.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mississippi – California Man Headed to Federal Prison for Mailing Drugs

(U) Jackson – A Los Angeles man will spend 30 years in federal prison and pay a \$25,000 fine after being convicted on drug charges on 3 October. The US Postal Service in Jackson, Mississippi, was contacted by the Los Angeles branch and advised that two packages—containing cocaine hydrochloride—had been deposited for mail and confiscated by postal inspectors, who then sent them via registered mail to postal inspectors in Jackson. The person who originally mailed the packages left the post office in a vehicle that was subsequently traced back to the defendant.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Clarion-Ledger](#)

(U) Oregon – Fake Explosives Found Deliberately Placed Near Gas Line

(U) Springfield – A call center was shut for nearly four hours and around 200 employees evacuated yesterday after a suspicious device was discovered near the building's natural gas line. The device appeared to be two sticks of dynamite with a cellphone attached, but it was later determined to be two road flares with a digital recording device attached—disguised to look like an explosive. The device appeared to have been “deliberately and intentionally” placed near the gas line to create fear.

SOURCE: 6 October 2017, [Register-Guard](#)

(U) Texas – Multiple Suspects Involved in Massive Drug Shipping Operation Indicted

(U) Tyler – Multiple people, charged with engaging in organized criminal activity, were recently indicted in Smith County for their involvement in a drug shipping operation between California and Tyler, Texas. Investigators believe that the individuals engaged in marijuana shipment between cousins from California to a location in Tyler, where dealers would pick up the drugs and distribute them in the area.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [KTLV News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – The Largest-Ever Methamphetamine Bust Hidden Inside Iced Tea

(U) Australia yesterday announced its largest seizure of methamphetamine precursors—with an estimated street value of \$3.6 billion—that was made in mid-September following a tip from Thai authorities about a large scale drug importation syndicate. The Australian Border Force intercepted a sea cargo shipment that contained more than 1,000 cartons filled with bottles of iced tea, which testing later showed contained ephedrine. Authorities stated that the precursors could have made around 3.6 tons of methamphetamine “ice”, which is double the previous record seizure of 1.4 tons seized in June.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Daily Telegraph](#)

(U) Saudi Arabia – Authorities Claim to have Dismantled an ISIS Cell in Riyadh

(U) Riyadh – Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it had dismantled an ISIS cell in the capital, in connection with a plot to launch a suicide attack on the defense ministry. Two militants were killed and five others arrested in raids on three locations on 4 October, according to an official statement on state-run television. Several bombing and shooting attacks have been mounted recently by ISIS militants against

security forces and Shi'ite Muslims in Saudi Arabia.

SOURCE: 5 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Tunisia – No Ties Found between Marseille Attacker, Terrorist Groups

(U) Tunis – Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed said yesterday that a probe into the young Tunisian who stabbed to death two women in the French city of Marseille earlier in the week had uncovered no links to terrorist groups. The probe directly challenges ISIS' claim of responsibility for the 1 October attack in Marseille, which said the assailant—29-year-old Ahmed Hanachi—was one of its "soldiers". Hanachi's friends and family members in Tunisia have dismissed any notion that he was motivated by jihadist aims, depicting him as a heavy drug user who had lost his way.

SOURCE: 6 October 2017, [Agence France-Presse](#)

(U) Yemen – US Drone Strike Kills Local Al-Qa'ida 'Commander'

(U) Balda – A US drone strike killed Shroum al-Sanaani—a local military commander with the al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)—in the Yemeni central province of Baida yesterday, according to security sources. Al-Sanaani was travelling on a motorbike with an unidentified man when the strike killed them both. The attack was carried out on the Yakala area—a stronghold for the militant group—where US drones have repeatedly targeted AQAP members in the past few months. The United States considers the Yemen-based AQAP to be al-Qa'ida's most dangerous branch.

SOURCE: 6 October 2017, [Agence France-Presse](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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